

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 7, 11, 20, 24, 31, 35, 37, 44, 48, 49, 58, 62, 69, 73 and 75 as follows:

7. (Amended) In a system comprising a network and at least one mobile station (MS) for enabling communications with the at least one MS, a method for rescuing one or more MSs having connections with the network that have become potentially failing connections, comprising:

identifying the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections;

a' transmitting a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) from the network, the RC-MA including a rescue channel multiple-access synchronization message (RC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections and a rescue channel handoff message (RC-HO) comprising a new active set specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections for enabling the MSs having potentially failing connections to continue the connection;

receiving the RC-MA at the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections;

handing off the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information; and

identifying one or more sectors that were receiving a particular MS having a potentially failing connection with a higher signal strength than other sectors, and specifying those one or more sectors in the new active set specific to that particular MS.

11. (Amended) In a system comprising a network and at least one mobile station (MS) for enabling communications with the at least one MS, a method for rescuing one or more MSs having connections with the network that have become potentially failing connections, comprising:

identifying the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections;

a² transmitting a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) from the network, the RC-MA including a rescue channel multiple-access synchronization message (RC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections;

receiving the RC-MA from multiple sectors simultaneously at the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections; and

handing off the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information.

20. (Amended) In a system comprising a network and at least one mobile station (MS) for enabling communications with the at least one MS, one or more MSs capable of receiving a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) and continuing connections that have become potentially failing connections, a method for assisting in rescuing one or more MSs having potentially failing connections, comprising:

identifying the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections;

a3 transmitting a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) from the network, the RC-MA including a rescue channel multiple-access synchronization message (RC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections and a rescue channel handoff message (RC-HO) comprising a new active set specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections for enabling the MSs having potentially failing connections to continue the connections;

monitoring a reverse channel specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information;

transmitting one or more forward channels from the network, each forward channel in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information and specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections that has received the RC-MA; and

identifying one or more sectors that were receiving a particular MS having a potentially failing connection with a higher signal strength than other sectors, and specifying those one or more sectors in the new active set specific to that particular MS.

24. (Amended) In a system comprising a network and at least one mobile station (MS) for enabling communications with the at least one MS, one or more MSs capable of receiving a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) and continuing connections that have become potentially failing connections, a method for assisting in rescuing one or more MSs having potentially failing connections, comprising:

identifying the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections;

a4 transmitting a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) from the network from multiple sectors simultaneously, the RC-MA including a rescue channel multiple-access synchronization message (RC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections;

monitoring a reverse channel specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information; and

transmitting one or more forward channels from the network, each forward channel in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information and specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections that has received the RC-MA.

a5 31. (Amended) In a system comprising a network and at least one mobile station (MS) for enabling communications with the at least one MS, the network capable of transmitting a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) including a rescue channel multiple-access synchronization message (RC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of one or more MSs having connections with the network that have become potentially failing connections, a method for assisting in rescuing a MS having a potentially failing connection, comprising:

receiving the RC-MA from multiple sectors simultaneously at the MS having the potentially failing connection; and

transmitting a reverse channel specific to the MS having the potentially failing connection in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information.

35. (Amended) In a system comprising a network and at least one mobile station (MS) for enabling communications with the at least one MS, a method for handing off one or more MSs having a connection with the network prior to detecting a failing connection, comprising:

identifying the one or more MSs in need of handoff;

96 transmitting a forward multiple-access handoff channel (HC-MA) from the network, the HC-MA including a handoff channel multiple-access synchronization message (HC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs in need of handoff;

receiving the HC-MA from multiple sectors simultaneously at one or more MSs in need of handoff; and

handing off the one or more MSs in need of handoff in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information.

37. (Amended) In a system comprising a network and at least one mobile station (MS) having connections with the network for enabling communications with the at least one MS, the one or more MSs capable of receiving a forward multiple-access handoff channel (HC-MA) and continuing the connections, a method for assisting in handing off the one or more MSs prior to detecting potentially failing connections, comprising:

97 identifying the one or more MSs in need of handoff;

transmitting the HC-MA from the network from multiple sectors simultaneously, the HC-MA including a handoff channel multiple-access synchronization message (HC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs in need of handoff;

monitoring a reverse channel specific to each of the one or more MSs in need of handoff in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information; and

transmitting one or more forward channels from the network, each forward channel in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information and specific to each of the one or more MSs in need of handoff that has received the HC-MA.

44. (Amended) A system for enabling communications between a network and at least one mobile station (MS) and for rescuing one or more MSs having connections with the network that have become potentially failing connections, the system comprising:

a network having a network processor programmed for

identifying the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections,

transmitting a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) from the network, the RC-MA including a rescue channel multiple-access synchronization message (RC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections and a rescue channel handoff message (RC-HO) comprising a new active set specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections for enabling the MSs having potentially failing connections to continue the connection,

monitoring a reverse channel specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information,

transmitting one or more forward channels from the network, each forward channel in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information and specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections that has received the RC-MA, and

identifying one or more sectors that were receiving a particular MS having a potentially failing connection with a higher signal strength than other sectors, and specifying those one or more sectors in the new active set specific to that particular MS; and

one or more MSs, each MS having a MS processor programmed for receiving the RC-MA and transmitting a reverse channel in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information if that MS has potentially failing connection.

48. (Amended) A system for enabling communications between a network and at least one mobile station (MS) and for rescuing one or more MSs having connections with the network that have become potentially failing connections, the system comprising:

a network having a network processor programmed for
identifying the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections,
transmitting a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) from the network, the RC-MA including a rescue channel multiple-access synchronization message (RC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections,

monitoring a reverse channel specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information, and

transmitting one or more forward channels from the network, each forward channel in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information and specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections that has received the RC-MA; and

one or more MSs, each MS having a MS processor programmed for receiving the RC-MA from multiple sectors simultaneously and transmitting a reverse channel in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information if that MS has potentially failing connection.

49. (Amended) A system for enabling communications between a network and at least one mobile station (MS) and for rescuing one or more MSs having connections with the network that have become potentially failing connections, the system comprising:

a network having a network processor programmed for
identifying the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections,
transmitting a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) from the
network from multiple sectors simultaneously, the RC-MA including a rescue channel multiple-
access synchronization message (RC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff
information specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections,
monitoring a reverse channel specific to each of the one or more MSs
having potentially failing connections in accordance with the MS identification and handoff
information, and

transmitting one or more forward channels from the network, each
forward channel in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information and specific
to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections that has received the RC-
MA; and

one or more MSs, each MS having a MS processor programmed for receiving the
RC-MA and transmitting a reverse channel in accordance with the MS identification and handoff
information if that MS has potentially failing connection.

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58. (Amended) A system for enabling communications between a network and at least one mobile station (MS) and for assisting in rescuing one or more MSs having potentially failing connections, the one or more MSs capable of receiving a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) and continuing connections that have become potentially failing connections, the system comprising:

a network including a network processor programmed for

identifying the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections,

transmitting a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA), the RC-

MA including a rescue channel multiple-access synchronization message (RC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections and a rescue channel handoff message (RC-HO) comprising a new active set specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections for enabling the MSs having potentially failing connections to continue the connections,

monitoring a reverse channel specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information,

transmitting one or more forward channels from the network, each forward channel in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information and specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections that has received the RC-MA, and

identifying one or more sectors that were receiving a particular MS having a potentially failing connection with a higher signal strength than other sectors, and specifying those one or more sectors in the new active set specific to that particular MS.

62. (Amended) A system for enabling communications between a network and at least one mobile station (MS) and for assisting in rescuing one or more MSs having potentially failing connections, the one or more MSs capable of receiving a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) and continuing connections that have become potentially failing connections, the system comprising:

a network including a network processor programmed for

all identifying the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections,
transmitting a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) from multiple sectors simultaneously, the RC-MA including a rescue channel multiple-access synchronization message (RC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections,
monitoring a reverse channel specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information, and
transmitting one or more forward channels from the network, each forward channel in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information and specific to each of the one or more MSs having potentially failing connections that has received the RC-MA.

69. (Amended) A mobile station (MS) for communicating with a network and for assisting in rescuing the MS when the MS has a connection with the network that has become a potentially failing connection, the network capable of transmitting a forward multiple-access rescue channel (RC-MA) including a rescue channel multiple-access synchronization message (RC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of one or more MSs having connections with the network that have become potentially failing connections, the MS comprising:

a MS processor programmed for
receiving the RC-MA from multiple sectors simultaneously at the MS if
the MS has a potentially failing connection, and
transmitting a reverse channel in accordance with the MS identification
and handoff information if the MS has a potentially failing connection.

73. (Amended) A system for enabling communications between a network and at least one mobile station (MS) and for handing off one or more MSs having a connection with the network prior to detecting a failing connection, comprising:

a network including a network processor programmed for
identifying the one or more MSs in need of handoff,
transmitting a forward multiple-access handoff channel (HC-MA) from
the network, the HC-MA including a handoff channel multiple-access synchronization message (HC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs in need of handoff,

monitoring a reverse channel specific to each of the one or more MSs in need of handoff in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information, and

transmitting one or more forward channels from the network, each forward channel in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information and specific to each of the one or more MSs in need of handoff that has received the HC-MA; and

a MS including a MS processor programmed for
receiving the HC-MA from multiple sectors simultaneously at one or more MSs in need of handoff, and

transmitting a reverse channel from the one or more MSs in need of handoff in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information.

75. (Amended) A system for enabling connections between a network and at least one mobile station (MS) and assisting in handing off one or more MSs prior to detecting potentially failing connections, the one or more MSs capable of receiving a forward multiple-access handoff channel (HC-MA) and continuing the connections, the system comprising:

a network including a network processor programmed for

identifying one or more MSs in need of handoff,

transmitting the HC-MA from the network from multiple sectors

simultaneously, the HC-MA including a handoff channel multiple-access synchronization message (HC-MAS) comprising MS identification and handoff information specific to each of the one or more MSs in need of handoff,

monitoring a reverse channel specific to each of the one or more MSs in need of handoff in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information, and

transmitting one or more forward channels from the network, each forward channel in accordance with the MS identification and handoff information and specific to each of the one or more MSs in need of handoff that has received the HC-MA.